(c) whether the National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (2005) has estimated that almost 50 per cent of graduates from AIIMS have migrated overseas; and

(d) whether Government would mandate every passing out medical graduate to serve a fixed period in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) It is a fact that the National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (2005) in its report has indicated that 50 percent of students AIIMS have migrated-both external (from India to other countries) and internal (from the public sector).

Revision and updation of medical curriculum to meet the changing public health needs of the country is an ongoing process. While specific data is not centrally maintained, adequate number of doctors are not available in the rural areas *vis a vis* urban areas. In order to tackle this problem, the Government constituted a Task Force on Medical Education for the National Rural Health Mission under the Chairmanship of Ex-Union Health Secretary. The task force has since submitted its report, which is under examination.

Understanding with insurance companies

1870. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector insurance companies and hospitals have come to an understanding on pricing of health care services for which insurance covers are being provided; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) There is no understanding between the public sector insurance companies and the hospitals on pricing of health care services for which insurance covers are being provided.

Increasing medical seats

1871. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments have a proposal to increase MBBS/BDS seats

in all Government medical colleges of the country keeping in view of increasing demands among the students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of financial allocation made by Government for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) The Essentiality and desirability to increase in number of MBBS/BDS seats in Government medical/dental colleges is to be determined by the respective State Governments/UTs based on their needs, priorities and availability of resources. Based on such essentiality and desirability, Central Government grant permission to increase the seats in medical/dental colleges after obtaining the recommendations of the concerned professional Councils in this regard. There is no proposal to increase the seats by Central Government in All Government Medical/ Dental colleges in the country.

Blindness and Tuberculosis Control Programme

1872. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Disease Control Programme in respect of blindness and tuberculosis has not met with success;

(b) whether the activities under the programmes were not conducted efficiently due to lack of infrastructural facilities, drugs, equipments, laboratories and testing devices;

(c) the steps taken to bring down the rate of prevalence of blindness and to achieve the targets fixed for cataract operations etc.; and

(d) the efforts made to eradicate blindness and tuberculosis completely and the achievement made thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The National Programme for Control of Blindness was launched in the year 1976 as a 100% Centrally sponsored scheme with the goal to reduce the prevalence of blindness from 1.4% to